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readableness. Even a novice can follow the discussion without difficulty and without fear of confusion. (2) Its direct dependence on the Bible itself. Wherever possible the author's statements are supported by biblical material, which means that the inductive method is used consistently.

A valuable feature is the chronology of the Bible writings and of the Bible versions given toward the close of the discussion.

The reviewer knows of no other work which serves the same purpose; and he heartily recommends it to all who desire to know the story of the Bible from its smallest beginnings to the completion of the American Revised Version in 1901.

F. C. E.

BOSWORTH, EDWARD I. *Commentary on the Epistle of Paul to the Romans.*

(The Bible for Home and School.) New York: Macmillan, 1919. 281 pages. \$1.10.

The excellent series to which this brief commentary belongs has already made available for the English reader the adequate critical understanding of such outstanding New Testament epistles as Galatians (Bacon) and Hebrews (Goodspeed). Now Dean Bosworth, of the Oberlin Graduate School of Theology, does a similar service for Romans. As in the series generally, all critical processes and all controversy with differing views of other exegetes are happily omitted, and we have a simple, intelligible comment on the letter's phraseology, by the aid of which any reader may follow its meaning without difficulty. The English Revised Version of 1881 is taken as a basis, with no citation of the Greek or discussion of textual problems. Of course any reader of Romans must make certain notable presuppositions, and these are taken for granted here without investigation, which would quickly outrun the limits set for the book. The Introduction, of 80 pages, is followed by an excellent bibliography. Dr. Bosworth holds that the letter was sent to Rome from Corinth between the years 54 and 58, as "a document intended to provide a unification platform for Jewish and Gentile Christianity" (p. 57), chapter 16 being an integral part of it. Paul, it is held, had all his life been deeply concerned for the coming of the Messiah, and had opposed the movement of Jesus as tending to delay that consummation. As a Christian, he sought to convert the gentile world as quickly as possible, believing that thereupon the Jewish world would relent and accept the gospel, and all parties unite on a common Christian hope and faith. Since his projected mission in Spain is to be the last stage in the gentile propaganda, the end is glimpsed, and in this Roman letter the apostle lays down the outlines of the common faith with which the united church is to greet its Master's advent.

From this point of view the letter is explained, each section of comment being preceded by an illuminating and carefully worded paraphrase, which almost makes comment unnecessary. In the exegesis itself few novelties will be noticed, but there is always independence of judgment, based on sound learning and admirable good sense (which has not always been the distinguishing mark of commentators). Samples of the book's excellence may be seen in the comments on the *crux* of 9:5, on 3:25, on 10:14, and on 12:6-8.

C. R. B.